

Broadcom gets Zeevo headsets

Broadcom Corp has signed a definitive agreement to acquire Zeevo Inc, a privately-held, Santa Clara-based provider of semiconductor and software solutions for Bluetooth wireless headset products.

The acquisition of Zeevo significantly accelerates Broadcom's

time to market and competitive position in the wireless headset market segment, which In-Stat/MDR estimates will grow to nearly 90m units per year by 2008.

Zeevo has introduced multiple generations of semiconductor and software solutions

specifically optimized for the unique needs of wireless headsets, all of which are proven in the market and shipping in volume production.

By combining Broadcom's existing strengths, customer relationships, presence in complementary markets, and

proven Bluetooth solutions with Zeevo's technology and innovative solutions, Broadcom's customers will benefit from a stronger product portfolio, optimised total solutions, enhanced support and a more comprehensive roadmap.

Bede focus pays off

Bede Plc's preliminary results for the year ended 31 December 2004 indicate growing market opportunity as semiconductor manufacturers invest in next generation technologies.

Its investment in sales, marketing, management team and business infrastructure has

moved the company to become a credible supplier to the growing X-ray metrology sector of the semiconductor capital equipment market.

The group transition to a semiconductor capital equipment business was completed in 2004 and order

intake for the year increased by 133% to £10.6m (2003: £4.6m).

Sales for the year increased by 80% to £7.3m (2003: £4.1m) with a 27% reduction in pre tax losses for year at £3m (2003: £4.1m).

Showing a record year-end closing order book of £4.3m (31 December 2003 £1m) CEO Neil Loxley said "These results affirm our strategy of transforming the business into a leading provider of X-ray metrology tools to the semiconductor industry globally."

China's ZTE opts for Istanbul

Istanbul is to host the Eastern European headquarters of one of the world's fastest growing telecommunications companies. ZTE Corporation, China's largest telecommunications manufacturer and wireless solutions provider, announced today that its operations in this rapidly-developing market will be managed out of its new offices in the Turkish city.

The announcement comes just a week before ZTE's pan-European roadshow is due to set out from Istanbul. The roadshow will see the Corporation's technology visit ten countries over the next three months.

"Istanbul has a wealth of highly-qualified hi-tech human resources and is geographically and economically very important in this region," said Mr. Guo Jun, general manager of

ZTE Eastern Europe. "Our new headquarters will enable us to provide local support to our customers in this region.

"Our strategy in Eastern Europe is localisation: we will work more closely with local partners, recruit more local employees and set up regional centres for maintenance and R&D," he added.

ZTE established a sales office in Ankara, the Turkish capital, in 2000. Since then, with Turk Telekom support, ZTE has created an SMS (Short Message System) project based on PSTN technology, joined a DSL project with Turk Telekom, and brought CDMA 2000 1X technology, including WLL, EV-DO and GOTA services, to Turk Telekom.

The roadshow - the first of its kind for ZTE in Europe - will visit Turkey, Greece, Romania,

Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland, Germany, France, Spain and Portugal between March and July of this year. On display will be ZTE's advanced wireless technology and solutions for the 3G era, including the Corporation's industry-leading WCDMA V3 system, next generation networks and a wide range of 3G services.

"Although Turkey has not issued 3G licences yet, the 3G roadshow will show our customers ZTE's latest R&D results and the capability in building up the commercial 3G networks," said Ms. Clara Zhou, general manager of ZTE's Turkey office.

It is estimated that 250 customers will attend the Turkish leg of ZTE's roadshow on March 22 and March 23 at the Crowne Hotel, Istanbul, including senior executives from the

Turkish Transportation Ministry, the Turkish Telecom Authority, Turk Telekom, Turk Cell, Telsim and Avea.

ZTE has established 14 offices in Europe and has made significant steps into the European market. Earlier this month, ZTE announced that it is to become a global supplier of ADSL equipment to France Telecom, which boasts 118.6 million customers worldwide. In February, ZTE announced an agreement with Alcatel that will see ZTE's CDMA radio access portfolio integrated into Alcatel's CDMA end-to-end solutions. Also this year, ZTE has signed a research and development Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Portugal Telecom and an agreement with Skylink, Russia's largest CDMA operator.